CHEMICAL HAZARDS PROGRAM
Environmental Health Branch
Georgia Department of Community Health
Atlanta, GA

Technical Assistance — Peach County

Woolfolk Chemical NPL
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In December 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review air sampling data conducted at Woolfolk Chemical Company. Under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR, the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) reviewed the data and provided a technical assistance report.

The Woolfolk Chemical Works Superfund site in Fort Valley, Georgia is a 31-acre site which resulted from the facilities production, formulation, and packaging of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides since 1910. The site was put onto the National Priority List in August 1990, with the majority of the risk driven by the arsenic contamination. A capped area on site containing materials from site cleanup activities is currently being remediated and removed from the site. Beginning in July 2006, EPA will sample air for contaminants to protect the public from airborne contaminants during remediation and removal of the on-site materials.

Seven air samples were collected in July and three air samples were collected in November of 2006 from locations at the perimeter of the capped area. Samples were collected using the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Versatile Sampler (OVS) tubes. The OVS tube contains a filter followed and two sorbent sections that can sample both particulate and vapor phases of a chemical in air. Blank samples were also collected. Samples were analyzed from the filter portion and the tube portion of an OVS tube for pesticides using gas chromatography. The detection level for each pesticide was calculated at 0.000013 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/cm^3).

In addition, in October 2006, an air sample was collected and analyzed for total particulates and inorganic arsenic using approved methods.

All OVS tube sample results from November were void of pesticides. Results from the July sampling event showed small amounts of one or more of the pesticides; aldrin, alpha benzene hexachoride (BHC), and lindane in four of the seven samples. Total particulate and inorganic arsenic were also detected in the air sample collected in October.

In preparing this document, GDPH used the ATSDR established comparison values (CVs) to screen contaminant levels and select chemicals of concern that warrant further evaluation. CVs are concentrations of chemicals that can reasonably (and conservatively) be regarded as harmless, assuming the most likely conditions of exposure. The CVs generally include ample safety factors to ensure protection of sensitive populations. Because CVs do not represent thresholds of toxicity, exposure to contaminant concentrations above CVs will not necessarily lead to adverse health effects.

The concentrations of pesticides mentioned above exceed one or more CVs. In addition, the detection levels may exceed the lowest chemical-specific CV. The target populations for exposure to elevated levels of pesticides are workers who access the contaminated areas frequently. The potential for exposure exists for family members and the public from workers transporting contaminant residues off-site on their bodies and clothing.

No health outcome data exist for workers or their families. Because this is a time-limited event and the contaminant levels are only slightly elevated, workers, the public, and their families are unlikely to be exposed to contaminants at levels of health concern.

The nature of the chemicals present in air, the low levels of contamination, the distance to the closest off-site property, and prevailing winds indicate that contaminants present in air do not pose a public health risk. Therefore, no toxicological evaluation was warranted.

Conclusions
GDPH has determined that this site poses ***no apparent public health hazard***. Human exposure to contaminated media may be occurring, but the exposure is below a level of health hazard.